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1 8. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the
2 amount of catalysed support incorporated into the membrane is such that the metal
3 loading is lower than 0.1mg/cm².

1 9. (Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the
2 amount of catalysed support incorporated into the membrane is such that the metal
3 loading is lower than 0.05mg/cm².

1 10. (Amended) A process according to claim 9, wherein the
2 amount of catalysed support incorporated into the membrane is such that the metal
3 loading is lower than 0.03mg/cm².

1 11. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the high
2 surface support material is non-electrically conducting.

1 12. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the high
2 surface area support material is selected from the group consisting of silica, titania,
3 alumina, zirconium oxides, zirconium silicates, tungsten oxides, tin oxides and
4 zeolites.

1 13. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the
2 support material is in the form of fibres.

1 14. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the
2 support material is in the form of particles with a mean particle size in the range of
3 from 0.001µm to 10µm.

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1 16. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the ion-
2 conducting polymer comprises an essentially aqueous solution of a perfluorinated
3 co-polymer with ion-exchange groups.

1 17. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the
2 catalysed support is in particle or fibre form and step (b) comprises directly adding
3 the catalysed support to a solution of the ion-conducting polymer electrolyte.

1 18. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the
2 catalysed support is in particle form and is applied as a binder to form a fibre

3 network to which the ion-conducting polymer is subsequently applied to produce the
4 membrane.


1 19. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the
2 catalysed support is in fibre form and itself is formed into a fibre network which is
3 thereafter bound with a binder, and the ion-conducting polymer is subsequently
4 applied to produce the membrane.

1 20. (Amended) A membrane prepared by a process according to
2 claim 1.

1 21. (Amended) A membrane electrode assembly comprising a
2 membrane prepared by a process according to claim 1.

1 22. (Amended) A fuel cell comprising a membrane prepared by a
2 process according to claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,


Christopher R. Lewis, Reg. No. 36,201
Attorney for Applicants

CRL/lrb

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Suite 301

One Westlakes, Berwyn

P.O. Box 980

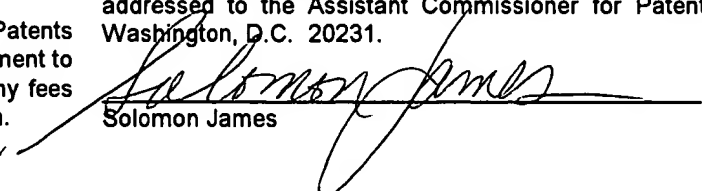
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980

(610) 407-0700

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